

XXVIIITH CONGRESS.
FIRST SESSION.

Senate.... WASHINGTON, Jan. 27, 1862.

Several petitions in favor of emancipation of the slaves were presented.

Petitions were also presented for the employment of homopathic physicians in the army.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohio) presented a petition from the Mayor, etc., of Springfield, Ohio, for a National Army there.

Mr. LANE (Rep., Ind.) presented a petition from the Board of Trade of Indianapolis in relation to a National Army.

Mr. KING (Rep., N. Y.) presented a petition against all further traffic in the public lands.

Mr. HARRIS (Rep., N. Y.) presented a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce and others in favor of the continuation of the coast survey.

Mr. HARRIS also presented the resolutions of the Assembly of the State of New-York relative to funds contributed upon the Government, etc.

Mr. HALE (Rep., N. H.), from the Naval Committee, made a report in relation to the answer of the Secretary of the Navy to the resolution in regard to the "Yankee contracts."

Mr. WADE (Rep., Ohio) offered a joint resolution in order to develop concentrate, and bring into effect the mechanical resources of the United States for the suppression of the rebellion, and future defense of our country. The Superintendent of the Customs was authorized to perform such things under the direction of the Secretary of War, and to collect such war-ships as in the judgment of the Secretary of War may be right and proper.

Mr. GRIMES (Rep., Iowa) opposed putting the Superintendent of the Census under the direction of the Secretary of War.

On motion of Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Me.), the bill for the continuation of the resolution was modified so as to read: "The Superintendent of the Census is authorized to furnish the Secretary of War with such war statistics from time to time as the Secretary of War may deem necessary for the use of the Department."

The resolution was then passed.

Mr. HALE offered a resolution that the Secretary of the Navy inform the Senate what was the cost of the Peninsular and how many cruises she had made; also where the ship Alabama was built, what was her cost, whether she was fit for a sailing vessel, and whether she could be altered into a steamer, &c. (Laid over.)

Mr. WILSON (Rep., Mass.) introduced a bill for the more efficient suppression of the slave-trade. (Referred in the TRUSTEE yesterday.)

Mr. KENNEDY presented a resolution from the Legislature of New-York, instructing Senators to vote for the election of the Franklin privilege. (Rejected.)

Mr. WADE called up the resolution making an addition to the joint rules of both Houses as follows: That when any member of the House or Senate shall rise in his seat, and shall say that the Executive Department of the Government desire immediate action on any matter pending in the suppression of the present rebellion, the House or Senate, as the case may be, shall go into secret session, and proceed to the consideration of the measure proposed, and the debate thereon shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker, and the vote thereon shall be taken before the adjournment of the secret session. Any breach of the secrecy, unless the injunction is removed, shall be punished by expulsion, if by a member, and if by any officer of the House or Senate, by imprisonment as the body in which it occurs shall impose.

Mr. WADE moved that the resolution be so modified as to strike out the indication of the debate to five minutes, though he thought we never learned anything after a person had spoken for five minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Mass.) offered an amendment that the question of going into secret session shall be submitted to the body in which it is proposed, and if the majority decide to do so, then to go immediately into secret session without debate.

Mr. FESSENDEN had no objection to the resolution, and his objection to the amendment of the Senator from Massachusetts, if it referred only to the Senate; but this was a joint rule, and the House will be in a position to go into secret session.

Mr. ROSTER (Rep., C. N. J.) did not believe in what was fictitiously called secret session. He thought what transpired in secret session was reported, as least, so as to do the least injury to the rebel men. When the rebels shall have reported of their sins, and eaten the hooks which the rebels should eat, he (Menzies) for one would receive them back. This was the first point at which he began to have any personal intercourse with them.

Mr. RIDDLE (Rep., Ohio) said this question of Slavery in, over, and through everything; politically speaking, it is everything. He maintained that Slavery is war prosecuting its own purposes through its own means of aggrandizement and conquest; and when the people of the Free States resolved to put a limit to the further extension of this war, Slavery took up old war-chest. The election of Mr. Lincoln had nothing to do with this war. In the event of the election of Mr. Douglas, with a slight difference, the same contest would have ensued. In the fundamental law slaves are known only as persons, and legislation by Congress is without limitation as to persons. There is the amplest power within the limit of the Constitution for changing the personal status of these slaves. He would confiscate the property of rebels; declare them free. Reasons might be found to go further than this. According to present policy we are allies of our enemies against ourselves. A nation which goes into this contest so timidly, belied and betrayed, will find in the end there is indeed a death-struggle. Gentlemen who turn their pale faces away and hold their weak stumps, must go to the rear, while the brunt of the battle will be borne by other hands. Wherever he could find constitutional right to deal with Slavery he would strike it a blow, and pray God to make the blow effectual. The people are in advance of the President, ahead of the slow, halting progress of argumentation; the wisdom of the radical forces has produced a radical movement, not among politicians, but among the races of men.

Mr. SHEFFIELD (Un., R. I.) expressed his surprise at the sentiment here enunciated, that Congress has power by a single enactment to emancipate all the slaves held under the laws of all slaveholding States; and after this announcement he was not at all surprised to hear the principle asserted in that a certain emergency Congress had power to declare a Dictator to control the Government. According to his view the Constitution was a compact of the entire people with every individual, by which Government is bound to afford protection, and the people to render obedience on the terms and conditions set forth in the Constitution. We cannot take property by due process of law, and this provision is governed by the other provisions regulating the passage of any bill of attainder. The Constitution must be taken as a whole, not in isolated parts. It is an instrument of delegated and limited powers. We have no right to instruct the Executive in the discharge of his duties, any more than the Executive has to instruct Congress how they shall proceed from their. The powers of Congress end when the armies in the enemy's country, has the right to order the capture of the personal property of the rebels, but he would not undertake to legislate the rebellion down. He would put it down in the only way it could be put down, namely, by fighting; and after the war was over, he would not in reference to the slaves, with the best Right he should then have. He believed Congress has now nothing to do with the question. They should not be divided in council, but unite all their energies in prosecuting the war.

Mr. WADE said there were measures which ought to be considered in secret session, and if we had this rule, he should move secret session on them immediately. If they were considered in open session the whole world would know all about them in no time.

The Senator did not seem to realize that we were in war—indeed, war was so much like peace he might not think we were in war; but the Committee, of which he was a member (Committee on War), determined that something should be done.

We must not with the Executive Department, or else have the Executive to take powers which belong to Congress.

Mr. CHANDLER (Rep., Mich.) urged the necessity of the measure, but would leave the punishment to the discretion of the Senate. It was a sin to injure the body who divulged the secrets, he would oppose it.

Mr. WADE wanted to say a single word about the disgrace of having bald-faced reports of everything done in secret session, and gave notice that in the future if we saw the raw secret to secrete broken, he would bring the subject to the notice of the Senate.

He would not believe in secret session.

Mr. FOSTER (Rep., C. N. J.) did not believe in what was fictitiously called secret session. He thought what transpired in secret session was reported, as least, so as to do the least injury to the rebel men. When the rebels shall have reported of their sins, and eaten the hooks which the rebels should eat, he (Menzies) for one would receive them back. This was the first point at which he began to have any personal intercourse with them.

Mr. RAYMOND withdrew his amendments, and the issue now made is distinct between the decisive position of the Committee and the less dictatorial resolutions of Mr. Tracy.

Destructive Fire in Boston.

BOSTON, Monday, Jan. 27, 1862.

Fire this morning broke out in Quincy Market, in the store over the stalls, which proved very disastrous to nearly all the occupants of the market by the flames, smoke, and water; very few of them were insured. Morris, Mason & Co., dealers in agricultural implements, seeds, &c., located over the market were damaged \$30,000, fully insured. The entire market building, which is owned by the city, was greatly damaged. Total loss estimated at \$50,000.

SECOND DISPATCH.

The damage by the fire in Quincy Market amounts to over \$100,000.

The Canadian Mills.

PORTLAND, Me., Monday, Jan. 27, 1862.

The Canadian mail train got off the track three times last night. The train has been off the track at Yarmouth, ten miles from this city, since 12 o'clock last night.

The engines from here have reached Yarmouth, where the down engine is capsized. The mail train is expected here at 12 o'clock.

The steamship Hibernian will sail on the arrival of the mails. She has been detained since Saturday.

European Steamers Inward Bound.

HARBOUR, Jan. 27, 1862.

The steamship Europa sailed for Boston at 5 o'clock this (Sunday) evening, where she will be early on Tuesday morning. Wind south-west.

The steamship City of New-York sailed for New-York at 5 o'clock on Saturday evening, and will be due in that city on Tuesday.

Sailing of the Hibernian.

BOSTON, Monday, Jan. 27, 1862.

David F. Robinson, for many years President of the Hartford Bank, and one of our most active and prominent citizens, died last night after a brief illness, aged sixty-one years.

The Trains East.

BALTIMORE, Monday, Jan. 27, 1862.

All trains are behind time on the Pennsylvania, New-York and Boston Roads. No train has come through to-day on either road.

Obituary.

ATLANTA, Monday, Jan. 27, 1862.

Ex-Controller John C. Wright died at Selsley-estuary to-day.

The Weather at Peekskill.

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Monday, Jan. 27, 1862.

The weather here is cold but pleasant. The weather is good.

Fatal Railroad Accident.

NORTON, Monday, Jan. 27, 1862.

The Rev. H. G. O. Dwight, the veteran Missionary, late of Constantinople, was the gentleman killed on the Troy and Utica Railroad on Saturday. He has been a Missionary of the American Board in Turkey since 1832, and was on a brief visit to this country. He has two sons in the Union army.

Trains on Eastern roads experienced little damage from the storm, and to-day are running on time. Train on Grand Trunk Railroad from Canada was especially interrupted, but the tracks are now dry and clear.

Mr. DAVIS (Union, Ky.) said in Indiana, when he voted for the election of Douglass, and the only object was to insure the defeat of Douglass, and the election of Lincoln. He read an extract from The New-York Tribune of Nov. 8, 1860. The Senator from Kentucky seems to find fault with the Senator from Indiana because he voted for Breckinridge. Mr. DAVIS (Union, Ky.) said in Indiana, when he voted for the election of Douglass, and the only object was to insure the defeat of Douglass, and the election of Lincoln. He read an extract from The New-York Tribune of Nov. 8, 1860. The Senator from Kentucky seems to find fault with the Senator from Indiana because he voted for Breckinridge.

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